

Applic. No. 10/010,246
Response Dated March 7, 2005
Responsive to Office Action of January 5, 2005

Remarks:

Claims 1 to 10 and 17, 18, and 21 to 31 remain in the application. Claims 11 to 16 and 19 to 20 were canceled in a previous amendment to facilitate prosecution of the instant application.

In items 1 to 4 on pages 2 to 3, of the above-identified Office action, claims 1, 2, 4, 5, 7, and 21 to 26 have been rejected as being fully anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,575,802 to McQuilkin et al. (hereinafter "McQuilkin") under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b).

As will be explained below, it is believed that these claims were patentable over McQuilkin in their original form and, therefore, the claims have not been amended to overcome McQuilkin.

Claim 1 calls for, *inter alia*, a surgical clip, including:

a bridge connecting first and second arms to form a substantially U-shaped structure; and

at least one deformable retainer extending past one end of the arms in a direction, wherein the retainer has a length

Applic. No. 10/010,246
Response Dated March 7, 2005
Responsive to Office Action of January 5, 2005

in the direction of at least approximately n times the distance between the arms when the arms are substantially parallel.

Claim 21 calls for, *inter alia*, a surgical clip, including:

a bridge connecting the first and second arms to form a substantially U-shaped structure with the first and second arms being substantially parallel to one another; and

at least one deformable retainer extending past one end of the arms in a direction, the retainer having a length in